

From: nali065@uottawa.ca  
Subject: RE: N. Ali; #5033260 - Ph.D. thesis - Please advice  
Date: Wed, 30 January, 2013 10:15 am  
To: "DEANGRAD" <deangrad@uottawa.ca>

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Dear Dr. Hastings:

Thank you for your acknowledging receipt of my email. It saddens me that you have decided against thoroughly investigating the hard facts provided.

The reason for my allegations coming to light now is because Dr. Robertson had requested on numerous occasions that I do not contact you.

In light of your email, I am compelled to disclose evidence (see attached) to substantiate only but one of my points. Again I remain grateful for your continued consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicholas

> Dear Mr. Ali,  
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>  
> I hereby acknowledge receipt of your message of January 26th, 2013. I have  
> considered the information you have submitted, but I am nevertheless not  
> persuaded to change my decision regarding your thesis. My main reasons are  
> as follows:  
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>  
> 1. Your allegations re. Professor Lemaire come after the fact of the  
> evaluations, and they are not confirmed by your supervisor.  
>  
> 2. Your explanation of the origins of Dr. Pierrynowski's is unfounded  
> and refers to events that happened many years ago - I find your  
> allegations unfounded.  
>  
> 3. You have misunderstood the way the notion of "arm's length" is  
> operationalized in the FGPS rules - I find no evidence of a conflict of  
> interest in any of the evaluators.  
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>  
> In the end, I would advise you to consider pursuing the appeals options  
> that are available to you - these will be detailed in the official letter  
> of decision that will be sent to you tomorrow.  
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>  
> Sincerely,  
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>  
>  
> Ross Hastings  
>  
> Doyen| Dean  
>  
> Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales |

[https://webmail01.uottawa.ca/webmail/uottawa/src/printer\\_friendly\\_bottom.php?passed\\_ent...](https://webmail01.uottawa.ca/webmail/uottawa/src/printer_friendly_bottom.php?passed_ent...) 3/8/2013

> examiner. Following our meeting on December 13th 2012, Dr. Robertson  
> divulged that Dr. Pierrynowski had many personal hardships  
> , which I  
> was not aware of. This was revealed to me as a possible explanation for  
> the failing grade received. Dr. Robertson was privy to this information  
> yet still suggested and allowed Dr. Pierrynowski to be on the committee.  
>  
> As with all other matters, I trusted my supervisor's guidance in making  
> decision regarding who was to sit on my committee.  
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>  
> Furthermore, my supervisor personal and professional relationship with Dr.  
>  
> Caldwell violates FGPS regulation G.5.C. Following your direction, I  
> insisted on numerous occasions to address comments raised by each  
> examiner. Upon discussing this on numerous occasions with my supervisor,  
> he advised me otherwise and insisted this was not the proper direction.  
>  
> Dr. Robertson and the faculty were informed by Dr. Caldwell that he  
> objected to review the thesis comments directly with me, but rather  
> preferred to handle this matter with my supervisor. I am concerned about  
> these communications and also puts in question the impartiality of this  
> examiner.  
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>  
> Dr. Hastings, respectfully, it is not fair to put you in the position of  
> making an important decision when you have been blindfolded from the  
> facts. I am pleading to you that it would be a grave mistake to fail me as  
> there is yet more evidence to be disclosed. My hope is that this matter  
> can be resolved immediately, which would avoid having to escalate this  
> case to other university authorities.  
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>  
> Furthermore, I implore you to please consider the following points in your  
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> decision:  
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> First and foremost, a doctoral thesis constitutes the creation and  
> dissemination of knowledge. I presently have four scholarly journal papers  
> published/accepted for publication in reputable journals. These four  
> journal papers constitute four chapters in my thesis, signifying four of  
> five chapters are published. All four journals were peer reviewed, each  
> had at least two reviewers with very strong editorial boards, as well as  
> many subject matter experts in the field of ACL injury biomechanics. What  
> this suggests is that there are at least eight different independent  
> experts in the field of ACL injury biomechanics that have reviewed my  
> work, consider it original, innovative, as well as adding to the body of  
> scientific knowledge, and subsequently agreed to publish it. The fact that  
> four editorial boards have published my work validates the scientific  
> quality and innovative nature of the thesis as well as confirms my ability  
> to create and disseminate scientific knowledge. The School of Human  
> Kinetics (SHK) Graduate Handbook states "The thesis should also make a  
> significant contribution to the literature" a tenet that my thesis has  
> met. It is evident that there is a great discrepancy in views between the  
> journal reviewers and the thesis examiners. As a student, it was  
> troubling to see that some examiners wrote in their evaluations that they  
> had serious doubts about my work ever being published while most of the  
> thesis content is indeed published.  
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>  
> Secondly, as per the SHK Graduate Handbook "The thesis involves the

> generation of new knowledge within the psychosocial or biophysical  
> disciplinary areas of Human Kinetics and is expected to be of publishable  
> quality." Given that a PhD thesis must feature work that "is expected to  
> be of publishable quality", published work has greater value and  
> legitimacy than work that is yet to be published.  
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>  
> Section G.1 of the FGPS General Regulations states:  
>  
> A thesis must follow the outlined standards of quality:  
>  
> "1) constitute a significant contribution to knowledge;  
>  
> 2) embody the results of original investigation and analysis on the part  
> of the student; and  
>  
> 3) be of such quality as to merit publication."  
>  
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>  
> Based on these three standards, my thesis has met requirement #1 and #2,  
> and exceeded requirement #3, given four chapters of the thesis have been  
> published in several reputable scholarly journals.  
>  
> In addition, as per SHK Graduate Handbook, an article style thesis  
> consists of "Three or four regular feature articles. Each article must be  
> ready to be submitted for publication to a peer review journal. The format  
> of each article can follow the specific requirements of the selected  
> refereed journal."  
>  
>  
>  
> It is evident that an article style thesis must only "be ready to be  
> submitted for publication to a peer review journal," however one would  
> infer that for an article to not only be prepared and readied to be  
> submitted but also to be published, is of greater value to the University  
> of Ottawa and the School of Human Kinetics. Furthermore, I have received  
> support from subject matter experts in the domain of ACL injury  
> biomechanics who have reviewed my work and confirmed that it meets FGPS  
> General Regulations, Section G.1.  
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>  
> Dr. Hastings, I strongly believe that our challenges can be mediated. I am  
> pleading that you reconsider your decision so that this matter can be  
> resolved amicably without escalation.  
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>  
> Given I:  
>  
> 1. Created and disseminated knowledge;  
>  
> 2. Met the three requirements outlined in the FGPS Regulation Section G.1;  
> and most importantly, 3. Presented hard facts to show that a thesis  
> examiner was not a bona fide examiner; as well as, 4. Presented hard facts  
> to show that two thesis examiners are not at arms length to my supervisor,  
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>  
> I humbly ask you to offer me the opportunity to be heard given as I was  
> forbidden by my supervisors to speak. All evidence can be provided when  
> required. I am and will remain grateful for your consideration.  
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> Sincerely,  
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> Nicholas Ali  
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>> Dear Professor Robertson and Mr. Ali,  
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>> I have spoken to both of the evaluators who rejected the thesis - both  
>  
>> of them confirmed their view that the thesis was not acceptable. Under  
>  
>> these circumstances, I am maintaining my decision not to let the  
>  
>> thesis proceed to defense.  
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>> Sincerely,  
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>  
>> Ross Hastings  
>  
>> Doyen| Dean  
>  
>> Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales | Faculty of Graduate  
>  
>> and Postdoctoral Studies  
>  
>> [deangrad@uOttawa.ca](mailto:deangrad@uOttawa.ca)<mailto:[deangrad@uOttawa.ca](mailto:deangrad@uOttawa.ca)<mailto:[deangrad@uOttawa.ca](mailto:deangrad@uOttawa.ca)%3cmailto:[deangrad@uOttawa.ca](mailto:deangrad@uOttawa.ca)>>  
>  
>> Téléphone / Telephone : (613) 562-5800 poste/extension 1234  
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>> From: Gordon Robertson  
>  
>> Sent: 21 janvier 2013 04:32  
>  
>> To: DEANGRAD  
>  
>> Cc: Heidi Sveistrup; Gholamreza Rouhi; Eric Doucet  
>  
>> Subject: RE: N. Ali; #5033260 - Ph.D. thesis  
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>>  
>  
>> I am sorry to hear of this decision. I suggest one more attempt be

>  
>> made to salvage this situation, which I believe was caused by the  
>  
>> non-transparent questions posed in the letters to the referees.  
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>> I suggest that you call the referees and ask the following clear  
>> question:  
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>> "Are you opposed to having Mr. Nicholas Ali defend his thesis orally?"  
>  
>> If two examiners deny the defense the failure is justified.  
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>> None of the examiners were actually asked this question. The form was  
>  
>> very evasive and provided a number of options that didn't address the  
>  
>> essential nature of the review (i.e., pass or fail).  
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>  
>> The decision to deny his defence hurts all concerned, including but  
>  
>> not limited to the referees, the supervisors, and the student. It is  
>  
>> also hurtful to the School of Human Kinetics, Faculty of Health  
>  
>> Sciences, FGPS, and the University, not to mention the people of  
>  
>> Ontario who funded much of the training of this student. This is a  
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>> lose-lose-...-lose situation that, I believe, could easily become a  
>> win-win-...-win situation.  
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>> Sincerely  
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>  
>> From: DEANGRAD  
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>> Sent: January 20, 2013 12:24 PM  
>  
>> To: [nali065@uottawa.ca](mailto:nali065@uottawa.ca)  
>  
>> Cc: Gordon Robertson; Heidi Sveistrup  
>  
>> Subject: N. Ali; #5033260 - Ph.D. thesis  
>  
>>  
>  
>> Dear Mr. Ali,  
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>  
>> I have reviewed the reports of the examiners of your thesis, as well  
>  
>> as the supplementary documentation submitted by you and your  
>  
>> supervisors. I regret to inform you that I am not willing to recommend  
>

>> that the thesis go forward for an oral defense - my decision is based  
>  
>> on regulation #  
>  
>> G.5.2(a) of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies which  
>  
>> specifies that: "A thesis may not be defended if two or more examiners  
>  
>> are opposed.".  
>  
>>  
>  
>> You will receive a formal letter confirming my decision over the next  
>  
>> few days; this letter will also lay out the process available to you  
>  
>> if you wish to appeal my decision.  
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>>  
>  
>> Ross Hastings  
>  
>> Doyen | Dean  
>  
>> Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales | Faculty of Graduate  
>  
>> and Postdoctoral Studies Pavillon Hagen Hall (209) Université d'Ottawa  
>  
>> | University of Ottawa Ottawa ON Canada K1N 6N5  
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>  
>> [deangrad@uOttawa.ca](mailto:deangrad@uOttawa.ca)<<mailto:deangrad@uOttawa.ca><<mailto:deangrad@uOttawa.ca>%3c<mailto:deangrad@uOttawa.ca>>  
>  
>> Téléphone / Telephone : (613) 562-5800 poste/extension 1234  
>  
>> Télécopieur / Fax: (613) 562-5730  
>  
>> <http://www.uOttawa.ca><<http://www.uottawa.ca/><<http://www.uOttawa.ca>%3c<http://www.uottawa.ca/>>  
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**Attachments:**

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|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>RE Nicholas Ali.msg</b> |                          |
| Size:                      | 49 kb                    |
| Type:                      | application/octet-stream |
| <b>Letter 1A.pdf</b>       |                          |
| Size:                      | 22 kb                    |
| Type:                      | application/pdf          |

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